

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Currently, claims 1-12 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 4-10 and 12 are allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over either Crawford et al (U.S. '165, hereinafter "Crawford") or Hagiwara et al (JP '427, hereinafter "Hagiwara")¹ in view of Vora et al (U.S. '825, hereinafter "Vora"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Crawford (or Hagiwara) in view of Vora fails to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. For example, the combinations of cited references fail to teach or suggest a slot armor component comprising a plurality of profile co-extruded polymer layers, as explicitly required by claim 1 and claims 2-3 and 11 which depend therefrom.

The Office Action alleges "The term 'profile co-extruded' is broadly understood as *being forced or pressed into a profile*." (See page 5, lines 16-17 of

¹ An English translation of Hagiwara was provided in Applicant's January 18, 2005 Amendment/Response.

the Office Action). This allegation clearly does not accurately present the broadest reasonable interpretation of “profile co-extruded.” In particular, this allegation completely ignores explicit teachings of the specification. For example, paragraph [0035] of the originally-filed specification states in part:

“Polymer layers 1-3 are chemically bonded together through a profile co-extrusion process. Polymer layers 1-3 are thus chemically bonded together through a melt stage of the profile co-extrusion process so that no adhesive is needed for bonding at the interfaces between polymer layers 1 and 2 and polymer layers 1 and 3.”

Paragraph [0035] is consistent with the definition of profile extrusion commonly accepted and understood by those skilled in the art by which profile extrusion relates to extruding materials through a die with a specific cross-sectional shape to produce extruded products. Profile extrusion is a continuous process which is a cost effective way to produce elongated products with complicated two-dimensional cross-sectional shapes. Figs. 8-14 and paragraphs [0040]-[0055] of the application describe a multiple layer profile co-extrusion system. The system heats materials so that they are transformed into a molten state and then conveys the molten materials through a die (see, e.g., paragraph [0041]). Accordingly, the Office Action’s allegation that the broadest reasonable interpretation of the term “profile co-extrusion” is “being forced or pressed into a profile” is erroneous.

The Office Action further alleges “Crawford, or individually alternate ref Hagiwara, each discloses a slot armor comprising a plurality of profile co-extruded polymer layers (Crawford’s 37 & 39, Hagiwara’s 3a1-3a2). . . .” (See page 2, last paragraph of the Office Action). Applicant disagrees with this allegation.

Sheets 37 and 39 of Crawford are not profile co-extruded layers. Instead, sheets 37 and 39 merely associated with each other in an overlaying relationship by engaging cuffs 69, 69a on sheet 39 to opposite marginal edges 55, 55a of sheet 37. (See col. 7, lines 56-68 and Fig. 5 of Crawford). No portion of Crawford discloses adjacent sheets 37 and 39 being chemically bonded together via a melt stage, consistent with the technology-wide accepted definition of a profile co-extrusion process as discussed above.

The Office Action specifically alleges that Fig. 6 and col. 8, lines 1-16 of Crawford discloses sheets 37 and 39 forming profile co-extruded layers. (See page 5 of the Office Action). Applicant respectfully disagrees with this allegation. Col. 8, lines 1-16 of Crawford is reproduced below:

When cuffs 69,69a are formed on sheet 39, as discussed above, sheets 37,39 in their overlaying relation may be deformed or shaped into a preselected configuration at least generally approximating the configuration of slot 33 in core 35, as shown in FIG. 6. When so shaped, sheets 37,39 are deformed into a generally U-shaped or horseshoe shaped configuration, and aligned adjacent opposite marginal edges 53,57 and 53a,57a of the sheets are arranged or positioned generally in laterally spaced apart relation with respect to each other. With the deformed sheets 37,39 in their generally U-shaped configuration, it may be noted that the sheets are

provided with opposite sides or side portions 71,73 and 75,77, and generally arcuate ends or end portions 79,81 on the sheets are integrally interconnected between the opposite side portions, respectively.

This portion of Crawford merely discloses that opposite edges of sheets 37 and 39 can be aligned so that sheets 37 and 39 are associated in an overlaying relationship. There is no discussion of a chemical bonding process nor is there any discussion of forming sheets 37 and 39 by transforming materials through a melt stage and/or forcing the materials through a die. If anything, the non-aligning or staggered relationship of apertures 41 and 43 in sheets 37 and 39 illustrated in Fig. 6 suggests that layers 37 and 39 are not profile co-extruded layers.

Layers 3a1 and 3a2 of Hagiwara are also not profile co-extruded layers. If anything, Figs. 2 and 3 illustrating layers 3a1 and 3a2 suggest that these layers are not profile co-extruded polymer layers. For example, layer 3a1 is shown as having apertures 9, whereas layer 3a2 does not include any such apertures. Similar to Crawford, no portion of Hagiwara discloses chemically bonding layers utilizing a melt stage and/or use of a die.

Vora discloses "The polymers may be cast as films useful as wire and cable wraps, motor slot liners or flexible printed circuit substrates." (See col. 11, line 67 to col. 12, line 11). However, Vora fails to teach or suggest a profile of co-extruded layers. Accordingly, Vora fails to remedy the above described deficiencies of Crawford and Hagiwara. Even if any of these references were

combined as proposed by the Office Action, the combination(s) would not have taught or suggested all of the claimed limitations.

With respect to dependent claim 11, the Office Action states "...those skilled in the art would understand that the essential teaching of Crawford or Hagiwara in view of Vora, is the slot armor can be formed as a plurality laminated layers of polymer." (Page 3, lines 3-4 of the Office Action). Even assuming *arguendo* that this is true, there is no teaching or suggestion in any of these references of a first polymer having a non-uniform thickness and a second polymer having a uniform thickness. If the Examiner maintains the rejection in view of these references, Applicant respectfully requests that the next Office Action specifically identify (i.e., what column and line number(s) and/or what Fig(s).) of Crawford, Hagiwara and/or Vora discloses these features. These features are supported by, for example, Fig. 1 which shows polymer layer 1 having a non-uniform thickness and polymer layer 2 or 3 having a uniform thickness.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 11 are not "obvious" over Crawford or Hagiwara in view of Vora and respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Crawford or Hagiwara in view of Vora and further in view of Kaminski (U.S. '064). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Since claims 2-3 depend from claim 1, all of the arguments made above with respect to

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claim 1 apply equally to claims 2-3. Kaminski fails to remedy the above described deficiencies of Crawford, Hagiwara and Vora. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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